



STEWARDSHIP
& PARTNERSHIPS

WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS PROGRAM

White Clay Creek

Wild and Scenic River Study



Trout fishing is a popular activity in the White Clay Creek

Designation: Pending; draft final study report to be issued in 1999.

Location: A little over 200 miles of the White Clay Creek and its tributaries are proposed for designation. The proposed designated streams flow through southwestern Chester County, Pennsylvania and northwestern New Castle County, Delaware.

Outstanding Resources: Lime Kilns and 19th century mills; neotropical migrant birds, including the Cerulean Warbler; the federally listed endangered Bog Turtle; the most extensive mature Pied-

mont forests remaining in the State of Delaware; and the Cockeysville marble formations, an exceptional aquifer.

Overview: The White Clay Creek watershed is truly an exceptional resource in the bi-state area. The White Clay Creek watershed is renowned for its scenery, opportunities for birding and trout fishing and for its historic features.

The watershed is also an important source of drinking water for residents in both Pennsylvania and Delaware. The proximity of the Philadelphia and Wilmington-Newark metropolitan areas, however, is having an impact on the



White Clay Creek is used as an outdoor laboratory for children and adults

watershed. There are more findings of pollution, fewer migrating birds, and receding forests. In 1991, citizens of the White Clay Creek area requested that the creek and its tributaries be considered for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Management Goals:

The following goals were developed by the Study Task Force:

Improve and conserve water quality and water quantity

Conserve open space, woodlands, wetlands and geologic features

Protect native plant and animal species

Preserve cultural, historical and archaeological sites

Enhance outdoor recreation opportunities

Encourage environmental education and outreach.

Management Approach:

The White Clay Creek study was the first time an entire watershed was studied for national wild and scenic designation. Traditionally a narrow corridor of land surrounding a river is studied. That kind of approach does not account for the variety of influences beyond the corridor that have profound impacts on river resources, such as non-point sources of pollution.

The White Clay Creek study defined the study area as the entire watershed. A key principle of the administrative framework is that existing institutions and authorities will play the primary roles in the long-term protection of the White Clay Creek watershed.

Municipalities, counties, states and federal agencies, together with private organizations and landowners, will participate in maintaining the high quality of the White Clay Creek watershed. To bind these diverse interests together in common purpose, a permanent committee representing all watershed interests will be covered.



A freshwater wetland in the watershed